THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, the 14th of *May*, 1724.

Collected and extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.

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Of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*.

Holden and begun at *Edinburgh*, upon *Thursday* the 14th Day of *May* 1724, and ending the 27th Day of that same Month and Year.

I.

The King's Commission to James *Earl of* Findlater *and* Seafield *produced, and ordered to be recorded.*

At *Edinburgh*, 14th *May* 1724. Sess. 1.

THE General Assembly of the Ministers and Ruling Elders of this National Church, being conveened and constituted, there was produced to them by the Right Honourable *James* Earl of *Findlater* and *Seafield*, His Majesty's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union betwixt the two Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England*, to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*; appointing him His Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this National Assembly: Which Commission being publickly read, with all due Honour and Respect, the General Assembly ordered the same to be recorded in their Registers, *ad futuram rei memoriam*: The Tenor whereof follows,

GEORGIUS, *Dei Gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ Rex, Fideique Defensor; omnibus probis hominibus ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in decimum quartum diem mensis Maii, proxime futuri convenire ordinatus fuit. Nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quin etiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ Ecclesiæ, ut idem Generalis Ecclesiæ Conventus die statuo debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus dicto*

Conventui perſonaliter intereſſe nequimus. Et per multa teſtimonia nobis abunde ſatisfactum ſit de ſufficientia & fidelitate fideliſſimi & dilectiſſimi noſtri conſanguinei & conſiliari Jacobi Comitis de Findlater, & Seafield, quod ad ſummum munus ſupremi noſtri Commiſſionarii, dicto Generali Conventui, rite exercendum & obeundum uſque quaque ſit inſtructus & idoneus; noveritis igitur nos nominaſſe, conſtituiſſe & ordinaſſe, ſicuti nos, tenore præſentium; nominamus, conſtituimus & ordinamus antedictum fideliſſimum & dilectiſſimum noſtrum conſanguineum & conſiliariam Jacobum Comitem de Findlater & Seafield, ſupremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium dictæ Generali Eccleſiæ Scotiæ Conventui, dando pariter & concedendo illi pleniſſimam poteſtatem, commiſſionem & warrantum, ſacram noſtram perſonam & authoritatem regalem repreſentandi; nec non, præſentiam noſtram ſupplendi, & locum noſtrum in dicto ſubſequenti Generali Conventu tanquam Commiſſionario noſtro in hunc effectum ſpecialiter conſtituto tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium & munus Commiſſionarii pro Generali Eccleſiæ Conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis reſpectu, quam quilibet alius ejuſdem ſummi muneris fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat; & ac ſi nos ipſi perſonaliter præſentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia & ſingula a dicto Jacobo Comite de Findlater & Seafield, in hac noſtra Commiſſione proſequenda, legitime facienda nos firmiter approbamus, & habituri ſumus. Omnibus & ſingulis inſuper antedictæ Eccleſiæ & Conventus paſtoribus & presbyteris, cæteriſque quibuſcunque infra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, ſubditis noſtris cujuſcunque gradus ſeu qualitatis, ut dictum Jacobum Comitem de Findlater & Seafield, tanquam ſupremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium, quoad effectum & modum ſupra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoſcant, & dicto ipſius audientes ſe præbeant ſtricte mandamus & imperamus. Atque hanc noſtram Commiſſionem a dicto decimo quarto die menſis Maii proxime incipere, ac deinceps hac ſubſequenti ſeſſione dicti Generalis Conventus in vigore continuare declaramus; vel uſque dum a nobis revocabitur & exonerabitur. In cujus rei teſtimonium, præſentibus ſigillum noſtrum per unionis tractatum, cuſtodiendum, &, in Scotia, vice & loco magni ſigilli ejuſdem utendum, ordinatum, appendi mandavimus, apud aulam noſtram de St. James's vigeſimo primo die menſis Aprilis, Anno Domini milleſimo ſeptingenteſimo vigeſimo quarto; & anno regni noſtri decimo.

Per ſignaturam manu S. D. N. regis ſubſcriptam.

Sealed at *Edinburgh*, the Twelfth Day of *May*, One thouſand ſeven hundred and twenty four Years.

Ja. Robertſon.

Written to the Seal, and regiſtrate the Twelfth Day of *May*, 1724.

Rob. Campbell, Depute.

II. The

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by His Majesty's Commissioner, May 14*th*, 1724. Sess. I.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and Well-beloved, We greet you well. When We reflect upon the prudent and dutiful Behaviour of the Church of *Scotland*, which has been so clearly manifested in your former Assemblies, We cannot doubt of the same good Disposition on all future Occasions, and do therefore most readily countenance this your present Meeting; being fully perswaded, that you will unite with the same Zeal, and unanimously concur in such Means as shall be deem'd most effectually to tend to the Peace and Welfare of the Church, the suppressing of Irreligion and Profaneness, and preventing the Growth of Popery: And we hope you are assured, that nothing shall be wanting on Our Part, towards the obtaining those desirable Ends, wherein the Honour of GOD, and the Well-being of Our Subjects are so nearly concerned.

We have made Choice of our Right Trusty, and Well-beloved Cousin and Councellor, *James* Earl of *Findlater* and *Seafield*, to be our Commissioner, and to represent Our Royal Person in this present Assembly, not doubting but his great Knowledge and Experience, his Zeal and Affection for Our Person and Government, as well as Adherence to the Principles of the Church of *Scotland*, which have recommended him to Us, will make him acceptable to you. And so we bid you heartily farewel. Given at Our Court at St. *James*'s, the Twenty first Day of *April*, One thousand seven hundred aud twenty four Years, in the Tenth Year of our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

ROXBURGH.

III.

The General Aſſembly's Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter.

Edinburgh, May 16. 1724. Seſſ. 3.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

WE juſtly eſteem it one of the many valuable Bleſſings, which our moſt merciful GOD plentifully beſtows upon this National Church, that Your Majeſty is graciouſly pleaſed, on every returning Occaſion, ſo readily to countenance our Aſſemblies.

The Confidence Your Majeſty is pleaſed, in Your great Goodneſs, to place in us, founded upon our Behaviour in former Aſſemblies, fills us with unſpeakable Joy. We ſhould do Injury to the Intereſt of our holy Religion, act inconſiſtently with the Duty we owe to the beſt of Sovereigns, and be wanting to our ſelves, if we did not unite with Zeal, and unanimouſly concur in ſuch Means as ſhall be deem'd moſt effectually to tend to the Peace and Welfare of the Church, ſuppreſs Irreligion and Profaneneſs, and prevent the Growth of Popery. We are at the ſame Time perfectly aſſured, that nothing will ever be wanting on Your Majeſty's Part towards obtaining theſe deſireable Ends, wherein the Honour of GOD, and Well-being of Your Majeſty's Subjects are ſo nearly concerned.

The Earl of *Findlater* and *Seafield*'s great Knowledge and Experience, the Zeal and Affection he has upon many important Occaſions expreſſed for Your Sacred Perſon and Government, as well as his Adherence to the Principles of the Church of *Scotland*, which have recommended him to Your Majeſty, render your Choice of him to repreſent Your Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, moſt obliging and acceptable to us.

That the moſt High God, who ſo ſeaſonably brought Your Majeſty to the Throne, for the Support of the Proteſtant Intereſt Abroad, and the Preſervation of the Religion and Liberties of Your Dominions, may continue in the moſt remarkable Manner to preſerve Your Sacred Perſon, guide Your Councils, and defeat the reſtleſs Endeavours

vours of Your Enemies, that he may pour out his beſt Bleſſings on the Heads of their Royal Highneſſes, the Prince and Princeſs of *Wales*, and their Royal Iſſue, and perpetuate the Succeſſion to the Crown in Your Family, and that after a long and happy Reign upon Earth, You may be crowned with immortal Glory in Heaven, are and ſhall be the conſtant and fervent Prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful, moſt obedient and moſt loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Preſence, in our Name, and at our Appointment, by

WILL. WISHEART, Moderator.

IV.

ACT concerning Commiſſions from Univerſities and Burghs.

Edinburgh, May 16th, 1724. Seſſ. 3.

THis General Aſſembly, for the greater Uniformity in Commiſſions to the Members of Aſſemblies, do reſolve and appoint, That the Presbytery's Atteſtation and Approbation, of all Commiſſions from Univerſities and Burghs, to their Repreſentatives in Aſſembly, as well as the Commiſſions from Presbyteries, ſhall, in all Time coming, bear the following Clauſe, *viz. And further, That the ſaid Commiſſioner is every other Way qualified to be a Member of the Aſſembly, according to the Acts of Aſſembly.*

V.

ACT Erecting the Synod of Glenelg, *and Four Presbyteries therein.*

Edinburgh, May 19th, 1724. Seſſ. 5.

THE General Aſſembly taking under Conſideration the Overture tranſmitted by the late Aſſembly, for erecting of Four new Presbyteries and a Synod; and having heard the Returns of the Synods and Preſbyteries concerned, thereupon: And conſidering, that through the Greatneſs of Miniſterial Charges in the Bounds after-mentioned, the great Way that the Miniſters thereof have to travel to their Synods and Presbyteries, and that when they do attend the ſame, they are long detained, and much diverted from their Parochial and Miniſterial Work, and from watching over their Flocks, and guarding their People againſt the Poiſonous Influence of Popiſh Emiſſaries, and others, diſaffected to our happy Eſtabliſhment; do, for a Remedy to theſe Things, hereby reſcind and make void and null the Act of the General Aſſembly, *anno* 1642, intituled, *Act anent the joining the Presbytery of* Sky *to the Synod of* Argyle; and alſo do diſjoin the Pariſhes and Presbyteries after-named, from the Presbyteries and Synods they formerly belonged to, and do erect the Pariſhes of *Genelg*, *Kintail*, *Lochailſh*, *Lochcarron*, *Gairloch*, *Lochbroom* and *Aſſint*, with the Pertinents thereof, into a Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, and to have their Meetings for ordinary in that Place. And do erect the Pariſhes of *Kilmalie* in *Lochaber*, *Kilmanivaig*, *Abertarff*, *Laggan* and *Urquhart*, and *Glenmoriſtoun*, into another Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of *Abertarff*, and to have their Meetings at *Killiwhimin*. And do erect the whole Pariſhes of the Iſle of *Sky*, and ſmall Iſlands next adjacent thereto, in a Third Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of *Sky*, and to have their Meetings for ordinary at *Strowan* in *Braccadale*. And do erect the whole Pariſhes in the *Lewis*, *Harris*, North and South *Uiſts*, and *Bara*, and ſmall Iſlands adjacent thereto

thereto, with *Hirta*, into a Fourth Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of *Long-Island*, and to have their Meetings *per vices* at *Rudil* in *Harris*, and *Ballallan* in *Lewes*: And ordains the foresaid Four Presbyteries to have their first Meetings, at their respective Places of Meeting above-mentioned, the second *Wednesday* of *July* next. And the General Assembly hereby erects the foresaid Four Presbyteries into a Provincial Synod, to be called the Synod of *Glenelg*, and to have their first Meeting at *Glenelg*, the first *Wednesday* of *July* 1725 Years; and thereafter to meet once in the Year, that Day and Place, and oftner, when and where they shall see needful; and appoints them to send one Minister and a Ruling Elder, to correspond with each of the Synods of *Argyle* and *Ross*; and these two Synods, each of them, to send two Ministers, and one Ruling Elder, to correspond with the said Synod of *Glenelg*, ay and until the Assembly see Cause to restrict the Number of these Correspondents. And the Assembly declares the foresaid Synod, and Presbyteries therein, to have the same Powers and Privileges, which any other Synod or Presbyteries of this Church, by the Word of GOD, and Constitutions of this Church, have. And because the Ministers at present in the Presbyteries of *Gairloch* and *Abertarff* are few, the General Assembly appoints the Presbytery of *Skye*, to send two or more Ministers, and a Ruling Elder with each of them, to meet with, and assist the said Presbytery of *Gairloch*, in their Presbyterial Work; and also to send Ministers and Probationers to supply vacant Churches therein. And likewise appoints the Presbyteries of *Inverness* and *Abernethie*, to send each of them a Minister and a Ruling Elder, to correspond with the Presbytery of *Abertarff*, until the Vacancies in the said Presbyteries of *Gairloch* and *Abertarff* shall be fully planted. And the General Assembly ordains the whole Four new Presbyteries above-named, to lay an Account of their Circumstances before the next General Assembly, or Commission; and appoints Letters to be written to the old Presbyteries and Synods above-mentioned, intimating the Premisses to them, and requiring them to acquaint the Brethren in their Bounds, to give Obedience to this Act. And the Assembly appoints all concerned to observe what is hereby enjoin'd, as they will be answerable to the General Assemblies of this Church. And *lastly*, It is referred to the Commission of the General Assembly, to give all the Assistance, Concurrence and Encouragement they can, to the foresaid new Synod and Presbyteries, and to the Brethren therein, in Order to the carrying on a Re-

formation in the foreſaid Bounds, and to give them Advice in difficult Matters, when applied unto for that Effect. And it is hereby declared, That the Annexation of the Pariſh of *Aſſint* to the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, is only temporary, until the Aſſembly ſhall conſider what other Presbytery the ſame ought to be joined unto.

VI.

ACT concerning the more frequent Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Edinburgh, May 20. 1724. Seſſ. 6.

THE General Aſſembly conſidering, that the Act VI. of Aſſembly *anno* 1711, intituled, *Recommendation concerning the Adminiſtration of the Lord's Supper*, has not had its full Effect, do hereby revive and renew the ſaid Act; and do appoint Presbyteries to do all they can to have the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper more frequently adminiſtred in their Bounds, throughout the ſeveral Months of the Year. And in regard it has been repreſented, that there are ſome Diſorders committed, in diverſe Places, at ſuch Occaſions, eſpecially on the Lord's Day; therefore the General Aſſembly does hereby enjoin Kirk-Seſſions and Presbyteries to endeavour the Reformation of ſuch Diſorders; and for that End, that Presbyteries take Care, that on the Lord's Day upon which the Sacrament is to be adminiſtred in any Congregation, the neighbouring Congregations be ſupply'd with Sermon; and that the Miniſters of the ſeveral Pariſhes where the Sacrament is to be adminiſtred, do give publick Warning on the Preparation Day, to all their Audience, that if any Diſorders ſhall be committed by any Perſon on the Lord's Day, theſe guilty will be cenſured, according to the Degree of their Offence. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſeveral Presbyteries, at their privy Cenſures, to call the reſpective Brethren in their Bounds to an Account as to their Obſervation of this, and the other above-mentioned Act, and to record their Diligence in their Books. And likewiſe ordains the ſeveral Synods to ſee to the punctual Obſervation

servation of the said Acts; and particularly, at their privy Censures, to call their respective Presbyteries to a strict Account, with regard to their Observation of what is above enjoined; and to record also their Diligence in their Books, that their Obedience herein may come under the Consideration of the General Assemblies of this Church.

VII.

ACT concerning vagrant Beggars, Maintenance of the Poor, and Recommendations for Charity.

Edinburgh, May 26th, 1724. Sess. 13.

THE General Assembly does instruct their Commission to consider what may be proper for Ministers and Church Judicatures, in their several Capacities, to do, for maintaining of the Poor, and restraining of vagrant Beggars, in their respective Bounds. And in the mean Time the Assembly recommends it to Ministers and Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries and Synods, to take effectual Care, and use all due Means to get every Parish to maintain their own Poor; and to make earnest Application to Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Commissioners of Supply, and Heritors, in their respective Bounds, and to Magistrates of Burghs, that the Laws against vagrant and sturdy Beggars, be put to vigorous Execution. And the General Assembly further enjoins Synods, Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions and Ministers, strictly to observe the 19th Act of Assembly 1696, which discharges them to give Recommendations for Charity to any without their own Bounds; and appoints that Recommendations given within their Bounds be for a definite Time.

VIII.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing diverſe Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 26th, 1724. *poſt meridiem*, Seſſ. 14.

THE General Aſſembly taking to their Conſideration, that there are diverſe weighty Affairs, which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint their Reverend Brethren, Mr. *William Wiſheart*, Principal of the College of *Edinburgh*, and one of the Miniſters of that City, their Moderator, Maſters *Andrew Rodgers* at *Galſtoun*, *John Hunter* at *Air*, *Robert Millar* at *St. Quivox*, *Alexander Orr* at *Muirkirk*, *Robert Alexander* at *Girvan*, *Thomas Clark* at *Ardroſſen*, *John Montgomery* at *Stewarton*, *Hugh Cochran* at *Kilmars*, *Neil Campbel* at *Renfrew*, *Robert Millar* at *Paiſlay*, *Patrick Maxwell* at *Inchinan*, *Thomas Steel* at *Strathaven*, *Matthew Connel* at *Kilbride*, *Robert Hamilton* at *Hamiltoun*, *Thomas Linnen* at *Leſmahago*, *John Orr* at *Lanerk*, *Charles Hunter* at *Pitineen*, *John Stirling*, Principal of the College of *Glaſgow*, *John Gray* at *Glaſgow*, *Alexander Maxwell* at *Rutherglen*, *John Simſon*, Profeſſor of Divinity in the College of *Glaſgow*, *Robert Wallace* at *Badernock*, *Archibald Wallace* at *Cardroſs*, *John Logan* at *Eaſter Kilpatrick*, *Dougal Stewart* at *Rothſay*, *Walter Campbel* at *Dunoon*, *Dougal Campbel* at *Southend*, *John Mc Vicar* at *Kildalton*, *Alexander Campbel* at *Inverary*, *Duncan Campbel* at *Killichrenan*, *William Moriſon* at *Tirree*, *Archibald Campbel* at *Kilmanivaig*, *Archibald Mac-Aulay* at *Braccadale*, *Coline Mc Kenzie* at *Lochs*, *James Stewart* at *Moullen*, *Alexander Stodheart* at *Dunkeld*, *Robert Biſſet* at *Kirkmichael*, *Adam Ferguſſon* at *Logirate*, *James Gilleſpy* at *Arngosk*, *William Wilſon* at *Perth*, *Peter Pilmore* at *Forgondennie*, *Alexander Moncrief* at *Abernethie*, *Archibald Bowie* at *Monzie*, *Patrick Provan* at *Trinity Gask*, *John Drummond* at *Crieff*, *John Logan* at *St. Ninians*, *Charles Muir at Stirling*, *John Taylor* at *Tillicoultry*, *Archibald Gibſon* at *Dumblain*, *Samuel Char-*

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tres at Innerkeithing, Allan Logan at Culroſs, John Gib at Cleiſh, William Greenlees at Ceres, George Gilleſpie at Stramilgo, Thomas Birrell at Cults, William Smibert at Kilmenie, John Auchinleck at Auchterderen, James Dickſon at Markinſh, James Thomſon at Burntiſland, Walter Wilſon at Kilconquhar, David Burn at Anſtruther Weſter, James Chalmers at Elie, John Stewart at Cameron, James Hadow, Principal of the New College of St. Andrews, William Lyon at Airly, Thomas Aiton at Alyth, James Lyon at Blairgowrie, George Ogilvie at Kirrimuir, Robert Young at Innerarity, John Williſon at Dundee, James Hodge at Longforgan, John Glaſs at Teallin, John Ferguſſon at Aberbrothwick, Andrew Bruce at Innerkeillor, Robert Gray at Briechen, Robert Stephen at Craig, Robert Ker at Lochlie, James Douglas at Arbuthnet, Gilbert Anderſon at Fordoun, Anthony Dove at Fettercairn, Thomas Blackwell, Principal of the College of New Aberdeen, William Osburn at Fintry, John Biſſet at Newhills, Robert Abercrombie at Skeen, George Chalmers, Principal of the King's College of Aberdeen, Martine Shank at Banchoryternan, Alexander Toaſh at Tarland, Patrick Coupland at Touch, Stephen Oliver at Forbes, Alexander Simſon at Inch, John Lumiſden at Kieth-hall, William Forbes at Tarves, Henry Lickly at Meldrum, James Brown at Aberdour, William Leſly at St. Fergus, Alexander Auchinleck at Fraſerburgh, John Turrin at Drumblate, Thomas Scot at Fyvie, Andrew Ker at Rathven, James Lautie at Cullen, John Gilchriſt at Kieth, Thomas M'Culloch at Belly, Walter Sim at Glaſs, James Chapman at Cromdell, William Grant at Abernethie, Charles Primroſe at Elgin, William Dugald at Spynzie, Joſeph Sanderſon at Alves, John Crockat at Dallas, John Squire at Forreſs, Robert Baillie at Inverneſs, Lauchlan Shaw at Calder, Hugh Campbel at Killimuir Weſter, John M'Arthur at Kilurnan, John Bayne at Dingwall, Alexander Fraſer at Urquhart, Thomas Chiſholm at Kilmorack, Hugh Monro at Taine, David Roſs at Tarbat, Robert Kirk at Dornock, Francis Robertſon at Clyne, George Oſwald at Dunnet, William M'Beath at Olrig, John Pitcairn at Hoy, James Weir at Firth, Alexander Nisbet at Shapinſhay, Thomas Keith at Sanday, James Buchan at Northmaving, Thomas Waldie at Lerwick, James Hart at Edinburgh, William Mitchel there, William Miller there, Samuel Semple at Libertoun, John Shaw at South-Leith, Niel M'Vicar at Weſt Kirk, William Hamilton, Profeſſor of Divinity in the College of Edinburgh, John Brown at Abercorn, John Baillie at Eccleſmachan, John Lookup at Mid-Calder, James Naſmith at Dalmeny, David Blenshall at Lamingtoun, John Tait

at *Kilbucho*, *Stephen Paton* at *Newlands*, *Daniel Gilchriſt* at *Linton*, *John Wallace* at *Drummelzier*, *David Linſay* at *Cockpen*, *James Paton* at *Carington*, *Robert Muiter* at *Craunſtoun*, *Matthew Reid* at *North-Berwick*, *James Aliſton* at *Dirlton*, *Andrew Dickſon* at *Aberlady*, *Thomas Davidſon* at *Whitkirk*, *William Ogilvie* at *Innerweek*, *John Lauder* at *Eccles*, *Daniel Sinclair* at *Longformacus*, *James Allan* at *Eymouth*, *Thomas Anderſon* at *Aitoun*, *Alexander Trotter* at *Edrom*, *Walter Douglas* at *Lintown*, *William Baxter* at *Sprouſton*, *Robert Bell* at *Crealline*, *John Gilchriſt* at *Bedrule*, *George Hall* at *Abbotsrule*, *James Douglas* at *Stow*, *Thomas Old* at *Legerwood*, *William M'Ghie* at *Selkirk*, *Robert Linlithgow* at *Askirk*, *Robert Malcolm* at *Ewes*, *James Hunter* at *Dornock*, *Robert Kirkland* at *Dalton*, *Andrew Clark* at *Tinnergirth*, *Robert Wallace* at *Moffat*, *Mungo Gibſon* at *Sanquhar*, *Thomas Tod* at *Derriſdeer*, *James Hill* at *Kirkpatrick Durhame*, *John Campbell* at *Kirkbean*, *John Miller* at *Kirkgunzian*, *William Falconer* at *Kelton*, *William Tod* at *Butle*, *William M'Ghie* at *Balmaghie*, *John M'Caul* at *Whithorn*, *James M'Clellan* at *Kirkcowan*, *Archibald Marſhell* at *Kircum*, and *Robert Ferguſſon* at *Calmonel*, Miniſters, His Grace *John* Duke of *Atholl*, the moſt Honourable *John* Marquess of *Tweeddale*, the right Honourable *David* Earl of *Buchan*, *Charles* Earl of *Lauderdale*, *Thomas* Earl of *Hadinton*, *James* Earl of *Findlater*, *Patrick* Earl of *Marchmont*, *James* Earl of *Hyndford*, *David* Earl of *Glaſgow*, *Archibald* Earl of *Ilay*, *Alexander* Lord *Polwarth*, *William* Lord *Roſs*, *James* Lord *Torphichen*, *George* Lord *Reay*, Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *North-Berwick* Baronet, Lord Preſident of the Seſſion, *Robert Dundas* of *Arniſtoun* Younger, Lord Advocate, *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormiſton*, Lord Juſtice Clerk, Sir *John Maxwell* of *Nether-Pollock* Baronet, Sir *Alexander Ogilvie* of *Forglen* Baronet, Mr. *James Erskine* of *Grange*, Sir *Francis Grant* of *Cullen* Baronet, Mr. *James Hamilton* of *Pancaitland*, Sir *Andrew Hume* of *Kimmerghame*, Sir *Walter Pringle* of *Newhall*, Eight of the Senators of the College of Juſtice, Sir *John Clerk* of *Pennicook* Baronet, one of the Barons of Exchequer, the Honourable Mr. *John Campbell* of *Mamore*, Colonel *Patrick Ogilvie* of *Inchleſlie*, Mr. *Alexander Leſlie* Advocate, Mr. *Arthur Forbes* of *Breda*, Colonel *John Erskine* of *Carnock*, Mr. *Charles Erskine* Advocate Son to the late Lord *Cardroſs*, Mr. *James Boſwell* of *Auchinleck* Advocate, *John Cuninghame* of *Enterkin*, *Alexander Finlayſon* of *Nielſtonſide*, Sir *James Stewart* of *Goodtrees* Baronet, *James Hamilton* of *Aikenhead*, *Charles Miller* Pro-

Provoſt of *Glaſgow*, Sir *James Campbell* of *Ardkinglaſs* Baronet, Doctor *William Stewart* of *Ambriſmore* Phyſician, *George Drummond* Eſquire, one of the Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Cuſtoms, *Colin Campbel* Younger of *Skipnidge*, Mr. *Alexander Campbell* Advocate, *Roderick M'Leod* of *Contillich*, *James Nimmo* Merchant and Baillie in *Edinburgh*, *Alexander M'Millan* of *Dunmore*, *Ronald Campbell* of *Balerno*, *Patrick Yeaman* of *Eaſtmiln*, Mr. *Robert Craigie* Advocate, *George Miller* Town Clerk of *Perth*, *William Auſtine* Provoſt thereof, *Thomas Drummond* of *Dalwhonzie*, Mr. *Alexander Bruce* of *Kennet* Younger, Sir *James Livingſton* of *Glentirran*, Mr. *Robert Hay* of *Naughton*, Mr. *James M'gill* of *Rankielor*, Sir *Robert Anſtruther* of *Balcaskie*, Mr. *Charles Gregory* Profeſſor of Mathematicks at *St. Andrews*, *George Balfour* of *Balbirny*, *James Barclay* Provoſt of *Kircaldy*, *Patrick Drummond* of *Gairdrum*, *George Nicol* Merchant in *Forfar* *Alexander Ferrier* Baillie in *Dundee*, *James Doig* Baillie of *Aberbrothwick*, Colonel *Robert Reid* Provoſt of *Montroſe*, *Robert Stewart* late Provoſt of *Aberdeen*, *Arthur Forbes* of *Eeht* Elder, Captain *John Forbes* of *Boyndlie*, *George Fordice* Provoſt of *Aberdeen*, *John Gordon* late Provoſt there, *William Crookſhank* Baillie there, Captain *Alexander Abercromby* of *Glaſſoch*, Mr. *Alexander Garden* of *Troup* Advocate, *James Grant* of that Ilk, Mr. *Patrick Grant* of *Eaſter Elchies* Advocate, *Joſeph Brodie* of *Milton*, *James Cramond* Baillie in *Elgin*, *Robert Logan* Baillie of *Forreſs*, *James Brodie* of *Whitehill*, Mr. *Duncan Forbes* Advocate, *John Cuthbert* of *Caſtlehill*, *Hugh Roſe* of *Kilravock*, *Duncan Forbes* Baillie of *Forſroſe*, Colonel *Robert Munro* of *Fowlis*, *George Munro* of *Culcairn*, *Hector Munro* of *Novar*, Mr. *Robert Honnyman* of *Graemſay*, Captain *James Craigie* in *Lerwick*, *John Campbell* Eſq; Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, *James Mitchelſon* Goldſmith Deacon Conveener there, Mr. *George Dundas* of that Ilk Advocate, *George Hill* Baillie in *Queensferry*, *William Baillie* of *Lamington*, *William Murray* of *Spitlehaugh*, *John Ramage* Provoſt of *Peebles*, Sir *Robert Dalrymple* of *Caſtletoun*, *Charles Brown* of *Colſtoun*, Mr. *Hugh Dalrymple* Advocate, Sir *James Hall* of *Dunglaſs* Baronet, Sir *William Baird* of *Newbyth* Baronet, Sir *Robert Sinclair* of *Longformacus* Baronet, *Thomas Kennedy* Merchant in *Kelſo*, Sir *Gilbert Elliot* of *Minto* Baronet, *Archibald Douglas* of *Cavers*, ——— *Edgar* of *Wedderly*, Mr. *Thomas Haliburton* of *Newmains* Advocate, *Robert Paterſon* of *Drygrange*, *Robert Rutherford* of *Fernylees*, Mr. *George Blair* in *Annan*, Mr. *Robert Foord*, *John Crichton* of *Carco*, Mr. *Joſeph Currie* Writer in *Drumfries*, *Samuel M'Clellan* of *Barclay*, *John*

Martin of *Airies*, and *John Gray* Chirurgion in *Stranrawer*, Ruling Elders, to be Commiſſioners of this General Aſſembly, to the Effects after-mentioned; with Power to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof Twenty one are always to be Miniſters, to meet and conveen within the Aſſembly Houſe at *Edinburgh*, the firſt free Day after the Diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at Ten of the Clock Forenoon; and afterwards the ſecond *Wedneſdays* of *Auguſt*, *November* and *March* next to come, and oftner, when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient; with Power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chuſe their own Moderator. And ſicklike the General Aſſembly fully Impowers and Authoriſes their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their *Quorum* above-mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, in every Matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Aſſembly; and to do every Thing contain'd in, and conform to the Inſtructions given, or to be given by this Aſſembly; and to advert to the Intereſts of the Church on every Occaſion, that the Church, and preſent Eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable: Providing always that this general Clauſe be not extended to particular Affairs, or Proceſſes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of univerſal Concern to, or Influence upon the whole Church. And 'tis hereby appointed, That what ſhall be determined at one Diet of the ſaid Commiſſion, with Relation to private Cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in Force, till diſapproven by the General Aſſembly. And the General Aſſembly renews the Inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly anno 1717, to their Commiſſion, and appoints the ſame to ſtand in full Force, as Inſtructions to the Commiſſioners above-named, and to be obſerved by them in all Points, as if the ſame were ſpecially here inſert: And that they enquire into the Publiſhing and Spreading of Books and Pamphlets, tending towards the Promoting of Opinions, of whatever Kind, inconſiſtent with our Confeſſion of Faith: And that the Recommenders of ſuch Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein-contained, whether by Word, Writ, or Print, be called before the ſaid Commiſſion, to anſwer for the ſame. And further, the ſaid Commiſſion is hereby impowered, to receive any References and Appeals, that ſhall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen ſuch Affairs for the General Aſſembly. Likewiſe to take Care that

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the Impressions of the Holy Scriptures, the Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and such Books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government thereof, be correct; and to give Directions about Printing the same. They are also appointed, at their first Meeting, to take under Consideration all the Representations of the Growth of Popery, within the Bounds of this National Church, and of Meeting-houses not authorised by Law, which have been brought up to this and former Assemblies, or Commissions thereof, or that may be further offered to this Commission; and to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and speedy Redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to medle in any other Matters, than what are committed and referred to them, as above-mentioned: And in all their Actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitutions of this National Church, and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same: Declaring that in and for all their Actings they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause. And this Commission is to continue and endure, until another Commission be appointed. And Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom ordered to be noticed, according to the Seventeenth Act of the General Assembly, *anno* One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibites the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and other Presbyteries within Twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meeting of this Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required all of them to give punctual Attendance on the Diets thereof; and Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have Four or more Members on the Commission, are to take Care that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same.

IX.

ACT concerning Commissions to Ruling Elders.

Edinburgh, May 26th, 1724. post meridiem, Sess. 14.

THE General Assembly appoints and ordains, That all Commissions hereafter to be given to Ruling Elders in this Church, as Members of Assembly, shall bear this additional Clause, *viz. And in particular, That the said Elders are qualified in all Respects, according to what is required by the Act 9th of the General Assembly held* anno 1722.

X.

ACT appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh May 27th, 1724, Sess. ult.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church, is appointed to be held at *Edinburgh*, upon the first *Thursday* of *May* next to come, One Thousand seven hundred and twenty five Years.

This General Assembly was concluded with Prayer, singing of the 122. *Psalm, from the 6th Verse to the Close, and pronouncing of the Blessing.*

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

Jo. DUNDAS, *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*

Overture concerning the Form of a Licence to Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 18*th*, 1724. Sess. 4.

THE Committee for Overtures brought in the Draught of a Licence to be given by Presbyteries to Probationers, after they have past their Trials, in Order to their being allow'd to preach the Gospel, which was transmitted by the late Commission to this Assembly, with an Overture that the said Form of a Licence should be established; and that every Probationer should be obliged to have such a Licence, before he be allow'd to preach the Gospel; and that no other Form of a Licence, than that after-mentioned, should be regarded. The Tenor of which follows, *The Presbytery of* —— *taking to Consideration, that* —— *having past his Course at the College, and thereafter studied Divinity for the Space of Six Years: As also having resided, for the most Part of that Time, within the Bounds of this Presbytery*: Or, *Having resided Six Months within those Bounds, and been recommended by the Presbytery*, Or *Presbyteries of* —— *where he resided for the most Part of that Time, as a Person fit to be entered on Trials; and they being satisfied with the Testimonials given as to his Life and Conversation: As also having had sufficient Testimonials from the Professors of Divinity with whom he studied, during the Time of his Attendance with them, as to his Proficiency in his Studies, and his good Behaviour: And neighbouring Presbyteries, as also the Synod of the Bounds, having been acquainted with the Design of entering him on Trials, and their Advice obtained thereto, he was admitted to the usual Trials, appointed by the Acts of the General Assembly of this Church: And having past thro' all the Parts thereof, the said Presbytery did upon the* —— *Day of* —— —— *Years, declare their Satisfaction with the said* —— —— *his Literature, and other necessary Qualifications; and thereupon the Questions appointed to be put to such as are to be licensed, prescribed by the* 10*th Act of the General Assembly, held in the Year* 1711, *being put to him, he gave satisfying Answers to all the said Questions, and then did judicially subscribe the* Formula *annexed to the*

Act 5th, Ass. 1705. Act 10th, Ass. 1711. Act 6th, Ass. 1714.

ſaid Act, and thereby coming under the Engagements to the Doctrine, Worſhip, Diſcipline and Presbyterian Government of this Church, contained in the ſaid Act, Queſtions and Formula; *he was licenſed by the foreſaid Presbytery, to preach the Goſpel of Chriſt, and exerciſe his Gifts as a Probationer for the holy Miniſtry. And now being deſigned to go elſewhere, the ſaid Presbytery doth hereby allow him this Extract of his Licence.* And the General Aſſembly having heard the ſaid Form of a Licence and Overture read, and having reaſoned thereupon, they did tranſmit the ſame to the ſeveral Presbyteries within this Church, to be conſidered by them, and appointed them, in the Terms of the 9th Act of Aſſembly 1697, to ſend up their Opinion thereupon, to the next General Aſſembly: And to render the Examining the ſaid Form more eaſy to the Presbyteries, they appointed the Acts of Aſſembly related to therein, to be ſet down upon the Margine thereof.

Overture as to Miniſters, Probationers, Elders and Deacons, their ſigning the Formula *preſcribed by Act of Aſſembly* anno 1711.

Edinburgh, May 20. 1724. poſt meridiem, Seſſ. 14.

THE General Aſſembly, for the greater Uniformity and Equality amongſt the Office-bearers of this Church, as to their Obligations with Reſpect thereto, do tranſmit to the ſeveral Presbyteries the following Overture, to be conſidered by them, that they may ſend in their Opinion of it to the next General Aſſembly, in Manner directed by the 9th Act of Aſſembly, *anno* 1697, *viz. That all the Miniſters of this Church, and Probationers for the holy Miniſtry, who have not yet ſubſcribed the* Formula, *preſcribed by the* 10*th Act of Aſſembly held* anno 1711; *and all Ruling Elders and Deacons, that ſhall be hereafter ordained to theſe Offices, within this Church, ſhall, at their Admiſſion, and before they begin to act or vote in Church Judicatories, in their foreſaid Capacities, ſubſcribe the ſaid* Formula.

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OF THE

ACTS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, *held in the Year* 1724, *which are not here printed.*

AFTER Sermon by Mr. *James Smith* Minister at *Cramond*, Moderator of the preceeding Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did conveen, and Mr. *William Wisheart* Principal of the College of *Edinburgh* was chosen Moderator, *May* 14th 1724, *Sess.* 1.

His Grace His Majesty's Commissioner's Speech to the General Assembly at the opening thereof. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Return to the Commissioner's Speech, *Ibid.*

Committee appointed for drawing an Answer to His Majesty's gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures appointed. *Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References and Appeals. *Ibid.*

Committee appointed to examine the Form of the Commissions, given to the Members of this Assembly, by their Constituents, and see if they agree with the Acts of Assembly, censure Absents from this Assembly, or Diets thereof; to name Ministers to preach before His Majesty's Commissioner; and supply the Moderator's Diet of Preaching, and to receive in Lists of Probationers and Students of Divinity, in Order to their being recorded, and to bring in their Report as to Commissions first to the Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

The Moderator allowed to open and peruse the Letters directed to the Assembly, and to give in any of them that contained only Excuses for Absence of Members, to the Committee for censuring Absents, and the rest to the Committee for Instructions. *Ibid.*

The Act for ordering the Assembly-house, read; and it resolved that no Preachers or Students of Divinity be admitted to enter the House, but such

such who receive and produce Tokens from Mr. *William Hamilton* Professor of Divinity at *Edinburgh*, impressed with the Assembly's Seal, and the Beadles ordered to keep back all such as want these Tokens. *Ibid.*

A Diet appointed for solemn Prayer. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer *May* 15th, *Sess.* 2.

Ministers named to preach before the King's Commissioner, and for the Moderator. *Ibid.*

Some new Commissions produced, and Additions made to Committees. *Ibid.*

An Answer to his Majesty's most gracious Letter unanimously approven; and the same being signed by the Moderator, the Lord Commissioner undertook to transmit it to his Majesty, and a Copy thereof ordered to be sent to the Lord Viscount *Townshend* Secretary of State, *May* 16. *Sess.* 3.

A Committee appointed to revise the Register of the Commission of the late General Assembly, to audite the Procurator's and Agent's Accompts, consider the State of the Church's publick Money, and prepare Overtures thereanent, and also to bring in any Overtures and References made by the late Commission to this Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to receive in from the Commissioners, their Synods and Presbyteries Instructions to them, or any Overtures they have to offer from them, and to class the Matters therein-contained, and prepare Overtures therefrom: And also to receive in any Accounts that shall be offered to them of the State of the Church in the North, the Highlands and Islands, particularly concerning the Growth of Popery and Superstition, and consider the same, and prepare Overtures for suppressing and preventing thereof: And likewise to receive in from the Visitors of the Commission Book, the Returns sent from Synods and Presbyteries to the late Commission's Letters, and consider the same, and prepare Overtures therefrom; and to bring their Report first to the Committee for Overtures, that they may prepare the same for the Assembly: And all Brethren, who had any Instructions or Overtures from their Synods or Presbyteries, were advertised to attend the foresaid Committee, at their first Diet, to give in the same, and to attend all subsequent Meetings thereof, to confer with them about the Heads of their said Instructions and Overtures. *Ibid.*

Committees appointed to revise and examine the Actings of the Synods of *Glasgow* and *Air*, *Perth* and *Stir-*

Stirling, *Fife*, *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, and *Drumfries*: But the Brethren from the Synods of *Argyle*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Galloway*, and *Caithneſs*, and Presbytery of *Zetland*, having ſhewed that their Books were not brought up, reſolved to enquire into the Reaſons thereof, at examining of the other Books. *Ibid.*

The Receivers of the Synod Books made Conveeners of the reſt, and the Viſitors in their going through the Books enjoined to obſerve the Rules preſcribed in Act 14th, Aſſ. 1713, and Act 5th Aſſ. 1723. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee for reviſing the Commiſſions given to the Members of this Aſſembly, received, and ſuch Members as had not ſigned the *Formula*, were appointed to ſign the ſame before they vote, and all the Commiſſions produced were ſuſtained, but the Presbyteries concerned were enjoined punctually in Time coming to obſerve the Acts of the Aſſembly concerning Commiſſions, and to take Care that ſuch as come from their Bounds, to be Members of Aſſembly, be qualified in the Terms of the ſaid Acts, and that their Elections be made in due Time: And Presbyteries were appointed to lay their Injunctions upon their Commiſſioners to come up to the firſt Diet of the Aſſemblies, and timeouſly to give in their Commiſſions to the Clerk: And all the Presbyteries were enjoined to ſend up their full Number of Repreſentatives to the Aſſemblies; and the Excuſes of the Presbyteries of *Dornock*, *Caithneſs* and *North-Iſles*, for nothaving Commiſſioners at this Aſſembly, as alſo the Excuſes of ſeveral particular Members for their Abſence, were admitted. But the Clerk was ordered to mark the Abſence of other Members, either total or at Calling of the Rolls, and to write to the Synods and Presbyteries concerned, acquainting them therewith, that the Perſons guilty in this Point may be called to an Account for the ſame, and be cenſured according to the Acts of Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

A Letter from the Proteſtant Synod of *Lithuania* was produced, and openly read, giving the Church Thanks for their Bounty and Charity to them, expreſt not only in the liberal Collection of Money they had made for, and tranſmitted to them, but for their undertaking to educate for them two young Men, Students in Divinity, at the Univerſity of *Edinburgh*; and intimating that they had ſent two of *Scottiſh* Extract, *viz.* *Chriſtopher Henry Karketel* and *James Inglis*, to enjoy the Be-

nefit of this Commiſſion, whom they earneſtly recommended to the Aſſembly: Which Letter was ordered to be recorded *Ibid.*

A Return was ordered to be written to a Letter from the Right Honourable the Lord *Reay*, commending his Charity and Zeal for Promoting Religion in his Country, and aſſuring him, that they'll do all they can, on their Part, to encourage the new Erections in *Duirneſs*; and publick Intimation was made to Deficients to give in their Money to Mr. *James Young* of *Killicanty* the Collector: And the Commiſſion was empowered to uſe all poſſible Means to bring in the Collections for that End, to compt with the Collector, and to ſee to the right Application of the Money collected, and to the ſecuring of the ſame, and to do all they can to carry on and finiſh the ſaid Erections: And the Procurator and Agent for the Church were appointed to carry on all neceſſary Proceſſes before the Lords Commiſſioners for Plantation of Kirks, *&c.* for that End, upon the publick Charges of the Church. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly having had the diſtreſſed Circumſtances of the *Scots* Presbyterian Congregation of the City of *New-York* in *America* laid before them, by a Petition and Memorial, given in by Dr. *John Nicol* their Commiſſioner, and a Petition from the Presbytery of *Long-Iſland* in *America*, produced by him, they earneſtly recommended to all Charitable Perſons to contribute for their Aſſiſtance; and appointed Presbyteries, at their firſt Meeting after this Aſſembly, to take the moſt effectual Methods for bringing in Collections of Money for their Relief; and to ſend in the ſame at furtheſt before the Firſt of *Auguſt* next, to Mr. *John Martin* of *Airies*, whom they appoint Collector thereof, and the Commiſſion is inſtructed to uſe all proper Means for bringing in the ſaid Collections, and to compt with the Collector, and ſee the Money duly applied. *Ibid.*

Two new Commiſſions produced, and Additions made to Committees, *May* 18. *Seſſ.* 4.

The Procurator and Agent are appointed to carry on upon the publick Charges of the Church, all Proceſſes neceſſary for a new Erection in the Iſles of *Tiree* and *Cole*, and ſettling a Stipend to the Miniſter of the new erected Pariſh; and a Letter is ordered to be written to his Grace the Duke of *Argyle*, entreating his Conſent and Concurrence to that Erection. *Ibid.*

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The Form of a Licence to Probationers for Preaching the Goſpel, with an Overture that the ſame ſhould be eſtabliſhed. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed and impowered to cognoſce and finally determine in any Proceſs or Appeal that may be brought before them, for ſupplying the Vacancy in the *Scots* Congregation of *Rotterdam*, and a Letter is ordered to be written to the Magiſtrates of *Rotterdam*, ſhowing from the Actings of the Presbytery of *Inverneſs*, the Reaſon why the Tranſportation of Mr. *Robert Baillie* to them was refuſed, and that it flowed not from any Miſmanagement or Neglect in the Conſiſtory of the ſaid Congregation, nor any Want of a due Regard to the Magiſtrates of *Rotterdam*, or the ſaid Conſiſtory, but to the Reaſons offered by Mr. *Baillie* and the Pariſh of *Inverneſs* againſt the ſaid Tranſportation: And alſo an encouraging Letter is ordered to be ſent to the ſaid Conſiſtory, with an Extract of the ſaid Presbytery's Proceedings. *Ibid.*

A Letter is ordered to be written to theſe who were conſtituted Commiſſioners for the Conſiſtory of the *Scots* Congregation of *Rotterdam*, in the North, deſiring them to write to the ſaid Conſiſtory an Excuſe for their Neglect in that Affair. *Ibid.*

A Committee is named to conſider fully the Matters contained in the Petition of the Presbytery of *Sky*, and prepare the Draught of an Act thereupon, to be laid before the Aſſembly at their next Diet. *Ibid.*

A Draught of an Act erecting the Synod of *Glenelg*, and Four Presbyteries therein, *viz.* the Presbyteries of *Sky*, *Gairloch*, *Abertarf* and *Long-Iſland*, is brought in by the foreſaid Committee, and the ſame, with the Act of Aſſembly 1642, therein-mentioned, being read, the ſaid Draught is voted and approven. *May* 19. *Seſſ.* 5.

The former Appointments on the Procurator and Agent for the Church, for carrying on the Erection of new Pariſhes in the Bounds of the Synod of *Glenelg*, and ſettling Stipends to the Miniſters, building of Churches and Manſes, and deſigning Glebes and Graſs to them, extracting Decreets, and doing Diligence thereon, upon the publick Charges of the Church, are renewed. And Mr. *Donald M'Leod* being examined by a Committee, and found a good Proficient in his Studies, and to have Knowledge of the *Iriſh* Language, is appointed to be preferred to the firſt vacant Burſe, and the Commiſſion is inſtructed to provide him therewith, and to give all due Encouragement to other Students having the *Iriſh* Lan-

Language, in Order to their being qualified to ſerve in the Bounds of the foreſaid new Synod; and to enquire after Students who have attended the Profeſſion of Divinity for a competent Time, and cauſe enter them on Trials, that when licenſed they may be ſent to the Country above-mentioned, to preach the Goſpel. *Ibid.*

Act reverſing the Sentence of the Synod of *Galloway*, laying aſide the competing Calls of the Pariſh of *Corſmichael* to Mr. *Andrew Dick* and Mr. *Colin Falconer*, Probationers, and ſuſtaining the Call to Mr. *Andrew Dick*, and appointing the Presbytery of *Kircudbright* to proceed to his Settlement as Miniſter of that Pariſh, according to the Rules of this Church. *Ibid.*

A Proceſs concerning the Planting of the Pariſh of *Lochmaben* moved, and the Conſideration thereof delay'd until *Thurſday*, and the Complaints both by the Preſbytery and Town of *Lochmaben*, againſt the Proceedings of the late Commiſſion in that Matter, were put in the Hands of the Moderator of the ſaid Commiſſion, to be ſeen and anſwered. *Ibid.*

Additions made to the Committe for Inſtructions. *May* 20. *Seſſ.* 6.

The Accompts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, with the Vouchers thereof, were brought in by the Committee, and their Report thereupon was read, and the Accompts and Vouchers were laid upon the Table, to be peruſed by ſuch of the Members as encline to look thereinto. *Ibid.*

Miniſters named to preach before the Lord Commiſſioner, and for the Moderator. *Ibid.*

The Conſideration of the Petition of the Commiſſioners from the Presbytery of *Zetland*, remitted to the Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

The Appeal of Mr. *John M'Cormick* Miniſter at St. *Andrews*, in a Caſe of Scandal, diſmiſt, and the Caſe remitted back to the Presbytery of St. *Andrews*, and the Presbytery ordained to proceed therein with all Diſpatch, until they bring it to a final Iſſue: And in caſe of an Appeal by Mr. *M'Cormick* to the Synod of *Fife*, from the definitive Sentence of the Presbytery; or in caſe the Presbytery, finding Difficulties, ſhall refer the Matter to the Synod, then the Moderator, upon the Application either of the Presbytery or Mr. *M'Cormick*, is appointed furthwith to call a Meeting of the Synod, *pro re nata*, and the Synod is appointed to determine in the Affair. And in Caſe Mr. *M'Cormick* ſhall alſo judge himſelf leſed by the Synod's Sentence, he is allowed to appeal

to the General Assembly or Commission, which of them soever shall first sit: And if the Appeal be to the Commission, they are impowered to receive in the same, and cognosce and finally determine therein, as they shall find just. *Ibid.*

The Assembly having heard a Representation from the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, and considered the 8th Act of Assembly *anno* 1716, for facilitating the Planting of the Highlands, and heard read a Letter from the Right Honourable the Earl of *Wigton*, and heard fully the Brethren from the Synod of *Dunkeld*, did allow the Presbytery of *Glasgow* to proceed to the Moderating of a Call by the Parish of *Cumbernald*, to Mr. *Duncan Mac-Lea* Minister at *Dull*. *Ibid.*

Some Overtures for the more frequent Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, brought in from the Committee for Overtures, were unanimously approven. *Ibid.*

The several Presbyteries in these Bounds that are infested with Popery, are appointed to use their outmost Endeavours to obtain the Laws against Priests, Jesuits, and trafficking Papists, to be put to due and punctual Execution; and the Commission is instructed to do what they can to procure the said Execution; and a Fund for defraying the Charges of any necessary Prosecutions, and to use all proper Means to prevent the Growth of Popery; and Letters are appointed to be written to the Sheriffs of *Argyle*, *Ross*, *Banff*, *Murray*, *Aberdeen* and *Inverness*, intreating them to give their Assistance in this Matter; and also Letters to be written to the several Presbyteries, enjoining them to apply the proper Ecclesiastick Remedies against this Evil, according to the Acts of Assembly. And at the Assembly their humble and earnest Request, the Lord Commissioner's Grace did kindly undertake to use his Influence with his Majesty, and those in the Government under him, to cause to be done what further may be necessary for quickening the Execution of the Laws against Popery, and a Committee was appointed to draw a Memorial of this Matter, to be put in his Grace's Hands. *Ibid.*

Principal *Hadow* was allowed to see and Answer a Petition of the Magistrates and Town Council of St. *Andrews*, about the Planting of their Parish. *Ibid.*

Mr. *Matthew Reid* Minister at *North-Berwick*, chosen Moderator in the Cause of *Lochmaben*, the Moderator of the Assembly having been a Member of the Commission. And it was resolved that the Assembly would first

first hear all Parties concerned in the whole Cauſe of *Lochmaben*, and every Branch thereof, before they would determine who ſhould be admitted to judge therein: And for ſaving of Time it was agreed, that whatever further was to be ſaid in this Cauſe, ſhould be pled *viva voce*, and no more Papers ſhould be read, but thoſe that ſhould be condeſcended upon as neceſſary for clearing of Matters; and after hearing of Parties, the Affair was delayed until Afternoon. *May* 21. *ante merid. Seſſ.* 7.

Parties were further heard in the Caſe of *Lochmaben*, and the late Aſſembly's Reference thereof to their Commiſſion was read. Alſo, at the Deſire of Mr. *John Henderſon* of *Braidholm*, Procurator for the Servants of the Crown in this Cauſe before the Synod, his Appeal from the Synod's Sentence, Reaſons thereof, and Anſwers thereto were read. And likewiſe, at the Deſire of Mr. *Robert Paton* and other Brethren in *Drumfries*, the Aſſembly reſolved to Morrow to allow them to be heard, and afterwards to proceed to judge and decide in the whole Cauſe, without further Hearing of any more Papers, or Pleadings of Parties therein. *Eod. die poſt merid. Seſſ.* 8.

After hearing the Brethren of the Synod of *Drumfries* on both Sides, the Aſſembly being to conſider who ſhould be removed as Parties in the ſeveral Branches of the Cauſe, the *Sederunts* of the Commiſſion *Auguſt* 14. and *November* 14. and 15. being read, the whole Perſons therein ſet down, and alſo all the Members from the Synod of *Drumfries*, and their Correſpondents who judged in that Cauſe, were removed: And then in a Queſtion, What Branch of this Cauſe they ſhould begin with, they reſolved to conſider in the Afternoon the Complaints againſt the Commiſſion's Proceedings, *May* 22. *Seſſ.* 9.

The Aſſembly found that the Commiſſion, by judging in the Settlement of *Lochmaben*, after their Meeting in *May*, had exceeded the Powers given them by the Aſſembly, and reſolved at another Diet to conſider the Actings of the Synod of *Drumfries* and Presbytery of *Lochmaben* in that Affair, and all that has been done, both in the Settlement of *Lochmaben*, and Vacating of *Cumbertrees*, and they found that in the Queſtion about the Synod's Actings at all their Meetings, except the laſt ordinary Synod, or Synod *pro more*, the Commiſſion are to be reckoned Parties, and ſo not to be called in to judge in that Matter; and

in ſuch Caſes wherein they can give Light to the Aſſembly in this Affair, they are to be called in: And 'tis reſerved to be afterwards conſidered whether the Commiſſion are to be eſteemed Parties in what concerns the Actings of the ſaid laſt ordinary Synod. *Eod. die, poſt merid. Seſſ.* 10.

After reaſoning upon the Merits of the Cauſe, it was propoſed, that for quieting this Pariſh, and the comfortable ſettling thereof, both Calls, and whole Proceedings thereof, ſhould be laid aſide, and a new Call ſhould be moderated, that ſo the true Choice of the People might be undoubtedly known. And the Lord Advocate being heard on this Propoſal, he ſignified his Hopes that he might obtain His Majeſty's expreſs Leave and Warrant not to inſiſt upon his Preſentation, in Oppoſition to what ſhould be found the Choice of the Pariſh: Then they named a Committee to prepare an Overture hereupon. *May* 23. *Seſſ.* 11.

The Viſitors of the Synod Books were advertiſed to have their Reports ready when called for. *Ibid.*

The Moderator of the Aſſembly being indiſpoſed, his Excuſe is admitted, and Mr. *James Smith* Moderator of the laſt Aſſembly, is choſen Moderator in his Abſence. *May* 25. *Seſſ.* 12.

The King's Receipt and gracious Acceptance of the Aſſembly's Anſwer to his Majeſty's Letter, and his great Satisfaction with the dutiful and loyal Expreſſions thereincontained towards His Majeſty's Perſon and Government, is notified to the Aſſembly by his Grace from the Throne, and by a Letter from the Lord *Townſhend* Secretary of State, directed to the Moderator. *Ibid.*

The Committee for reviſing the Commiſſion Book having brought in their Report, the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly receive the Thanks of this Aſſembly for their Prudence, Zeal, Faithfulneſs and Diligence in the Affairs of the Church committed to them, and eſpecially for their Diligence in Proſecuting their Inſtructions relative to *Popery* and *Jacobitiſm*, with an Exception as to the Affair of *Lochmaben*, according to the former Determinations of the Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

The Regiſter of the Commiſſion is atteſted in the ordinary Form, with the foreſaid Exception. *Ibid.*

The Liſt of Matters referred by the late Commiſſion to this Aſſembly, is remitted back to the Conſideration of the Committee for reviſing the Commiſſion Book, that they may prepare Overtures thereupon. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accompts of Mr. *John Dundaſs* Advocate

vocate Procurator for the Church, for a whole Year of His Majesty's Allowance to the Church, which was at the Disposal of the last Assembly 1723, for defraying the Charges of the Church for that Year, and discharging him and his Cautioner of his Intromissions, and appointing the Balance of Forty five Pound Nine Shillings Eleven Pence one Sixth Part of a Penny *Sterl.* to be stated as an Article of Discharge in his next Accompt. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accompts of *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church, his Intromission with the Church's Money, and sustaining his Deboursements on the Church's Affairs, from the first of *May* 1723, to the first of *May* 1724, and appointing the Sum of Nine Pounds Two Shillings Four Pence and Five Sixth Parts of Penny *Sterl.* of Balance due by him, to be charged on him at next Compting, in the Terms of the Committee's Report, but Prejudice of a Bill for One hundred and twelve Pound Eight Shillings and Nine Pence *Sterl.* resting to him of former Accompts. *Ibid.*

The Members of Assembly ordered to meet by their Synods severally, to name Persons of their respective Synods to be of a Committee for nominating the Members of a Commission of this Assembly, and preparing the Draught of their Commission and Instructions. *Ibid.*

Upon Report of the Committee for the Affair of *Lochmaben*, the Assembly set aside the Calls to both Mr. *William Carlyle* and Mr. *Edward Bunckle*, and declared their Relations to the Parish of *Lochmaben* void and null; and appointed the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, after the 20th Day of *August* next, to moderate in a new Call, that the deliberate and free Choice of the Parish may more fully appear; and appointed the Presbytery of *Drumfries* to restore Mr. *Carlyle* to *Cumbertrees*, and the Presbytery of *Lochmaben* were reproved for their irregular and precipitant Actings in this Matter, and were admonished to be more cautious for the future: And it was earnestly recommended to the Synod of *Drumfries* to bury all the Heats which this Affair has created amongst them, and to live together henceforth in Amity and Peace; and His Majesty's Advocate was intreated to use his good Offices with His Majesty, not to insist upon his Presentation to Mr. *Carlyle*, in Prejudice of the above Determinations; and the foresaid Synod and Presbytery were advised not to bring into their Books any Part of this Affair, or Papers belonging thereto, which are not already recorded, that all Memory of the

Differences that have ariſen amongſt them about it, may be utterly extinguiſhed. *Ibid.*

A voluntary Contribution is recommended, for helping to build the Harbour of *Aberbrothwick*, and the Money ordered to be ſent to Baillie *Patrick Lindſay* in *Edinburgh*. *Ibid.*

Upon a Repreſentation from Baillie *Alexander Arbuthnot* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, one of the Adminiſtrators for the deceaſt *John Raining* Merchant in the Pariſh of St. *Giels* in the City of *Norwich*, a *Scotſman*, who did bequeath and mortify to the General Aſſembly of this Church, or their Deputies, for the Support of Schools in *Scotland*, 1200 *lib. Sterl.* preſently payable, and other 1200 *lib. Sterl.* upon the Event of his Children's Death before Majority, under the Regulations and Proviſions expreſt in his later Will; the Aſſembly appoints the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their Committee for Management, their Truſtees and Deputies in that Matter, with full Power to call for and receive the Money, and to ware out, beſtow and manage the ſame, according to the Will of the Mortifier, and to do every Thing concerning the ſame as the Aſſembly themſelves could do, by vertue of the ſaid Will and Teſtament, the Society always obſerving inviolably the ſaid Mr. *Raining*'s Will, as expreſt in his Teſtament, without any Alteration whatſoever, and laying an Account of their Management yearly before the General Aſſemblies of the Church: And this Truſt and Deputation is declared revokable by any ſubſequent Aſſembly. The ſaid Baillie received the Thanks of the Aſſembly for his Care and Concern in this Affair; and a Letter of Thanks is ordered to be ſent to Mr. *Raining*'s Relict, and his other Adminiſtrators, particularly to Mr. *Alexander Hamilton* Merchant, for their Chriſtian Concern about this pious and charitable Mortification. And it is reſolved that the School or Schools to be ſettled on this Fund, ſhall be called *Raining*'s *Schools*; and a full and authentick Copy of the Teſtament is appointed to be got, and the ſame to be recorded in the Books of Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Principal *Hadow*'s Anſwers to the St. *Andrews* Petition, ordered to be given in to Morrow, with Certification. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed and impowered to call, cognoſce and finally determine in the Caſe of Planting the Pariſh of *Kirkmichael* at their firſt Meeting. *Ibid.*

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The Synod Books of *Argyle*, *Angus* and *Mearns*; *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, *Orkney* and *Caithness*, not being brought up, the Brethren from the said Synods shewed the Reasons why they brought them not, and having given satisfying Answers to the Questions proposed to them, as to what is enjoined in the 4th Act of the Assembly 1713, and 5th Act of Assembly 1723, their Conduct was approven, their Care and Diligence commended, and the Synod Books were ordered to be brought to the next Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Fife*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, and *Ross* and *Sutherland*, were examined and attested, but the Attestation of the Book of *Fife* was ordered not to be subscribed, until the Book be first subscribed by their Moderators. *Ibid.*

A Letter from the Consistory of the *Scots* Congregation of *Rotterdam*, directed to *Mr. William Mitchel*, remitted to the Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to consider an Overture proposed concerning the Tumults in *Galloway*. *May 26. ante meridiem. Sess.* 13.

Lists of Persons in the several Synods brought in, and these Persons appointed as a Committee for drawing the Commission to be given by this Assembly, naming the Persons to be therein, and preparing their Instructions. *Ibid.*

The Petition for St. *Andrews* being again moved and considered; the Commission is instructed and impowered to cognosce and finally determine in any Appeal that may be brought before them, for planting the Parish of St. *Andrews*; and the Presbytery of St. *Andrews* is appointed to give ready Concurrence, and to make the necessary Steps for moderating in a Call for supplying the said Vacancy without Delay. *Ibid.*

The Commission is impowered to call, cognosce, and finally determine in any References, Appeals or Processes that may be brought before them about planting the Parish of *Montrose*, providing they overleap not the Synod, but come regularly from the Presbytery to the Synod, and from them to the Commission or General Assembly, which of them soever shall first sit. *Ibid.*

The Commission is impowered and instructed to receive and finally decide in any Appeal that may be made to them, about planting the Parish of *Torriburn*; but with this Restriction, that the Synod be not overleapt; and the Restriction laid by the last Assembly upon the Presbytery of *Dunfermling*, anent the settling of *Torriburn*, is taken off. *Ibid.*

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The Synod Book of *Galloway*, and Presbytery Book of *Zetland*, not being brought up, the Brethren from the said Synod and Presbytery shewed the Reasons why they brought them not; and having given satisfying Answers to the Questions asked at them, with Relation to what is enjoin'd in the Act 4th, Assembly 1713, and Act 5th, Assembly 1723, their Management was approven, their Care and Diligence commended, and their Books ordered to be brought to the next Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Lothian* and *Tweedale*, *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, and *Drumfries*, were attested, but with an Advice to the Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, that they maintain Highland Bursers, according to the Acts of Assembly: And the Synod of *Drumfries* were disapproven, in their neglecting to record the Causes of a Fast appointed by them, and were advised in Time coming, to take Care that their Register be duly subscribed by their Moderators, and to maintain Highland Bursers, as other Synods in this Church do; and the Clerk was discharged to sign this Attestation, until their Book be subscribed. *Ibid.*

It is recommended to Synods and Presbyteries carefully to observe former Acts of Assemblies, about maintaining Bursers having *Irish*, and collecting and paying in the Money for that End: And Mr. *Donald M'Leod* is recommended to the Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale* for their Burs, Mr. *Archibald Bannatine* also to them for one of their Presbytery Burses, Mr. *George Grant* to the Synods of *Drumfries* and *Galloway* for their Burs, Mr. *William Munro* to the Synod of *Drumfries*, for the Burses of *Middlebee* and *Lochmaben*, or others within their Bounds, and Mr. *John Robertson* to the Synod of *Galloway* for a Burs within their Synod, Mr. *Murdoch Morison* and Mr. *Hector M'Clean* to the Synod of *Fife* for Burseries within their Bounds; and 'tis recommended to the several Synods, at their next Meeting, to enquire particularly into the State of the Burseries within their Bounds, and to try how the Acts of Assembly concerning Burseries are obeyed, and to see to the punctual Observation of them, and to record their Diligence in the Premisses in their Books; and 'tis particularly referred to the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air* to see that the Presbytery of *Air* do bear Burden in this Matter, proportionally to their Numbers: And 'tis recommended to that Presbytery not to dispose of their Burs, if it be yet vacant, until the Synod have the Case laid before them. And in

Caſe any of the above-named Perſons ſhould happen to be diſappointed of the Burſeries they are recommended to, 'tis referred to the Commiſſion to provide them: And upon Application to them, and Production of ſufficient Teſtimonials in Favour of Mr. *Thomas Minſud* Student having *Iriſh*, to provide him alſo in a Burſs; and likewiſe to take the uſual Obligations of the above-named Students, as to their Serving in the Highlands and Iſlands, according to the Acts of Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

The Principals and Profeſſors of Divinity preſent in the Aſſembly, were appointed to meet with the Commiſſioners from the Presbyteries where the *Iriſh* Language is ſpoken, and to take up a Liſt of Probationers and Students of Divinity, and an Account of the Vacancies of Pariſhes where Preaching uſes to be in the *Iriſh* Language, that ſuch Probationers may be ſent to preach therein; and Students fit to be entred on Trials are appointed to be entred thereon, that when licenſed, they may be ſent to theſe Places: And the ſaid Committee is appointed to make their Report to the Commiſſion. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commiſſion to conſider what is proper to be done as to Miniſters and Probationers who ſhow a Willingneſs to accept of Preſentations from Patrons, and to propoſe an Overture hereupon to the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

A Commiſſion by this Aſſembly to ſome Miniſters and Elders, and their Inſtructions to them, are approven. *May 26. poſt merid. Seſſ.* 14.

Intimation appointed in all the Churches of *Scotland* of the Sentence of the Presbytery of *Forfar*, excommunicating *Anna Skeen* in the Pariſh of *Glamis*, for her Adultery, Apoſtacy from the Proteſtant Faith to Popery, and alſo for her Contumacy. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commiſſion to call, cognoſce, and finally determine, as they ſhall find juſt, in Mr. *Thomas Anderſon* Miniſter at *Air* his Appeal from the Sentence of the Presbytery of *Chirnſide* and Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, finding the Villages of *Glaſsgreen*, *Netherbyres* and *Brownbank*, to be Parts of the Pariſh of *Eymouth*. *Ibid.*

Francis Young in *Wakmill* in the Pariſh of *Logie Colſtan*, recommended to the Synods of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, *Lothian* and *Tweedale*, *Fife*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Aberdeen* and *Murray*, for Charity. *Ibid.*

The Act and Recommendation of the late General Aſſembly, for a Collection to build a Bridge over the Water

betwixt *Lathnot* and *Lochlee*, in the Presbytery of *Brechin*, is revived and renewed, to such Presbyteries and Parishes as have not yet collected therefore. *Ibid.*

Intimation was made to the Deficients in the Collection for encouraging the new Erection of *Norrieston*, to do it without Delay; and the Money collected was appointed to be given in to *Nisbet Spence* Sub Clerk, or any of the Commissioners from the Presbytery of *Dumblain*. And it was notified that the new Kirk is already built. *Ibid.*

The Appointment of the General Assembly *anno* 1722, on the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to prosecute Mr. *Hugh Campbell* Minister at *Kilmure Wester*, his Process for Modification and Locality of his Stipend, is renewed, and the same is ordered to be carried on and finished at the publick Charges of the Church. *Ibid.*

Hugh M'Alexander late of *Dalreoch*, is recommended to the Parishes in the Synods of *Glasgow* and *Air*, *Lothian* and *Tweedale*, *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, *Drumfries* and *Galloway*, for Charity. *Ibid.*

The Procurator for the Church is appointed to give to *Margaret Hunter* Relict of the deceast Mr. *William Humphrey* late Minister at *Aithsting* and *Sandsting* in *Zetland*, his Advice, and he and the Agent are appointed to give her their Assistance in a Law Suit she is to raise; and a publick Collection was made in the Assembly House for her present Supply. *Ibid.*

The whole of Mr. *John Boner* Student of Theology his Case, whose Trials before the Presbytery of *Stirling*, in order to his being licensed to preach the Gospel, were stoped, because of his irregular Marriage, is remitted as it stood to the Presbytery of *Stirling*, and they are required to proceed therein as they will be answerable to their Synod. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commission to give to the Presbytery of *Strathbogie* all the Assistance they can with respect to the Parishes of *Kinnoir* and *Dumbennan*, and to assist the said Parish, and all other Parishes where Popery abounds in any Processes for Ministers Stipends, and Schoolmasters Salaries; and the last Assembly's Instruction to their Commission, for sending Preachers to the North, to assist the Ministers of such Parishes where Popery prevails, is renewed, and they are appointed to do what is in their Power to get some suitable Encouragment to them. *Ibid.*

It is recommended to the several Synods in these Bounds where Popery prevails, particularly to the Synods of *Murray*, *Aberdeen*, *Argyle* and *Glenelg*, and the neigh-

neighbouring Synods, to keep a Correſpondence together, and to take the great Encreaſe of Popery under their Conſideration; and 'tis recommended to them to appoint Committees of their Number to viſit the ſeveral Pariſhes infeſted with Popery, or where the Teachers of new Doctrines do haunt, and aſſiſt the Miniſters of theſe Pariſhes in their Endeavours to remedy theſe Evils; and the Commiſſion is inſtructed to do all they can to get ſome Miniſters ſent from the South, to join with and aſſiſt their Brethren in the North in their Work. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to conſider what can be done to prevent the Imploying of diſaffected Perſons as Governours of Youth, and Teachers of Schools; and to ſee what Method is fit to be taken to keep back Perſons from being Members of the Judicatures of this Church, who are not of a fair Character as to Religion, who do not attend Ordinances for Divine Worſhip, and do not keep up the Worſhip of God in their Families, and who are not otherwiſe qualified according to the Acts of Aſſembly; particularly the Act 9th of Aſſembly *anno* 1722. *Ibid.*

Application is appointed to be made to the Commander in chief of His Majeſty's Forces, intreating that he will give Orders to the ſeveral commanding Officers to take Care to ſuppreſs Curſing, Swearing, breaking of the Lord's Day, and other Immoralities of the Soldiery, by a due Execution of the Articles of War againſt Immorality; and the Commiſſion is inſtructed to do what they can at any Time, for obtaining a Remedy againſt theſe Evils, and particularly to make the above-mentioned Application. *Ibid.*

Upon Occaſion of the tumultuous Meetings of ſome People about *Kirkcudbright*, and their illegal throwing down ſeveral Incloſures, the Aſſembly warned theſe People of the Sinfulneſs and Danger of ſuch Courſes, and exhorted them ſpeedily to deſiſt therefrom; and required all Miniſters near to the Places where they are aſſembled, particularly in the Bounds of the Synods of *Dumfries* and *Galloway*, in the moſt ſerious Manner, from their Pulpits to warn the People of the Sinfulneſs and Danger of ſuch Actings, and to exhort and obteſt them, as they have Regard to the Commands of GOD, the eternal Salvation of their Souls, as well as the Safety of their Bodies and Families, that they deſiſt from ſuch Practices in Time coming, and live quietly and orderly, in Submiſſion to the Laws of

the Land, and to their Rulers, who are the Ordinance of GOD, and particularly in Loyalty and Obedience to our Proteſtant Sovereign King *George*; and recommended it to all Miniſters in theſe Bounds, in their Sermons, Prayers or private Converſation, to beware of any Expreſſion that may ſeem in the leaſt to juſtify ſuch Practices, or to alleviate the Guilt of them, or that may be interpreted to import that any ſufficient Ground or Occaſion hath been given to commit ſuch Abuſes. And 'tis recommended to the Gentlemen who have been injured by theſe irregular Practices, to uſe the greateſt Tenderneſs towards a poor miſled People, in Order to the reducing them to their Duty. And the ſaid Act is appointed to be publiſhed from the reſpective Pulpits in theſe Bounds, with ſuitable Exhortations to inforce the Deſign thereof. *May* 27. *Seſſ. ult.*

The General Aſſembly conſidering that there has been ſeveral Demands made this Aſſembly upon the Church's publick Money, contrary to ſtanding and repeated Acts made for the right Diſpoſal of the ſaid Money; they did peremptorily diſcharge any new Orders to be granted for Money out of the Church's yearly Allowance, until all the preſent Debts of the Church be firſt payed; and did appoint, That in all Time coming the Act of the General Aſſembly held *anno* 1719, be inviolably obſerved. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to ſupport and incourage Mr. *William Venice* Miniſter of the Goſpel, as much as they can, in what concerns the Matters contained in the References of former Aſſemblies, with reſpect to him. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to take the Miſcarriages of Mrs. *John Taylor* and *John Adamſon*, Perſons excommunicated by this Church, under their Conſideration, and to do therein as they ſhall ſee Cauſe. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to ſee to the Redreſſing of the Grievances of Mr. *James Smith* Miniſter at *Gairloch*, in the Terms of the Obligation relative thereto, granted to him by the Heritors of the ſaid Pariſh, which was laid before the Commiſſion of the late Aſſembly; and the Moderator is appointed, in the Name of the Aſſembly, to write Letters to the ſaid Heritors, thanking them heartily for their chearful Concurrence in that Affair. *Ibid.*

The Matters contained in a Petition of the Commiſſioners from the Presbytery of *Zetland*, are referred to the Conſideration of the Commiſſion, with Power to do there-

therein as they find juſt; and they are ordered to take the ſaid Matters under their Conſideration at their firſt Meeting. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commiſſion to do as they ſee Cauſe in the Caſe of Mr. *James Anderſon* at *Hawick*, a Student having *Iriſh*, his being put under Trials, in Order to be ſent to the Presbytery of *Dornock* and Synod of *Roſs*. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed and impowered to pitch upon fit Perſons to be imployed as Preachers and Catechiſts in the Bounds of the Presbyteries of *Strathbogie*, *Abernethy* and *Lorn*, to travel from Houſe to Houſe, and inſtruct the People in the Principles of the true Religion, and to give to each Preacher and Catechiſt 400 Merks *Scots* yearly out of the publick Money, preferable to all other Claims, except the ſtated annual Charges of the Church; and the ſaid Preachers and Catechiſts are declared to be under the Inſpection of the Presbyteries of the ſeveral Bounds within which they ſhall be imployed, who ſhall direct them as to their Work, and the Time of their abode in the foreſaid Places; but the ſaid Allowance is only to continue during the Aſſembly's Pleaſure. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commiſſion to take under their Conſideration the Returns given by Synods and Presbyteries to the late Commiſſion's Letters, and to do therein as they ſee Cauſe. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to continue to deal with the Magiſtrates of *Edinburgh*, to get the Aſſembly-houſe put in ſuch Order, as may be found moſt convenient for accommodating the Members; and the Lord Provoſt and Dean of Gild being Members of the Aſſembly, and preſent in the Houſe, got the Aſſembly's Thanks for the Readineſs they have ſhown in that Matter, and they were earneſtly deſired to perfect the Buſineſs; and the Commiſſion was inſtructed to continue to put the Magiſtrates in Mind hereof. *Ibid.*

All Matters that were referred by the late Aſſembly to their Commiſſion, and are yet undiſcuſt, are referred to the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, with Power to proceed therein, according to the Inſtructions given by the ſaid Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

The Procurator and Agent for the Church are appointed, upon the Deſire of any Synod or Presbytery, to commence Proceſſes before the Lords of Seſſion for ſettling of Schools, all previous Steps herein being firſt taken by the ſaid Presbyteries, according to the 4th Act of Aſ-

ſembly *anno* 1719; and alſo to commence Proceſſes a-gainſt ſuch as tranſgreſs the Laws made againſt irregu-lar and clandeſtine Marriages, and for recovering and preſerving Mortifications for pious and charitable Uſes. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to conſider the Caſe of Pa-riſhes which are not very large, and where one Kirk might well ſerve, and yet have more Places than one for publick Worſhip, and what is proper to be done there-in, and prepare an Overture thereupon to the next As-ſembly. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to take under their Conſi-deration the Caſe of the Pariſh of *Kirkmichael*, in the Presbytery of *Abernethy*, in which Popery abounds, and to do what they can for the Good of Religion in that Pariſh. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to take the Matters ſet forth in a Repreſentation of the Commiſſioners from the Presbyteries within the Synod of *Murray* under their Conſideration, and do therein as they ſhall find needful. *Ibid.*

Intimation was made to the Deficients in Collecting for the *French* Proteſtant Colony at *Hildburghauſen* in *Saxo-ny*, to do it with the firſt Conveniency, and that ſuch as have collected and have not paid in the Money, may pay in the ſame to Mr. *John Martine* of *Aries* Book-ſeller in *Edinburgh*, againſt the Month of *Auguſt*, or at furtheſt, before *November* next, with Certification, that then the Names of the Deficients will be made publick: And a Letter from Monſieur *D'Ebeynne* Agent for the ſaid Colony was read, giving this Church Thanks for their great Charity and Kindneſs to them, and in-treating that the Remainder of the ſaid Collections may be made effectual: And the Commiſſion is impower-ed to receive in from the Collector an Account of the Deficients, and direct him in the Management of that Collection, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, and to do every Thing neceſſary to make the ſaid Collection effectual for the Purpoſes deſigned. *Ibid.*

Intimation was made to any that had brought in the Collections of their Pariſhes or Presbyteries for new E-rections in *Duirneſs* in *Strathnaver*, that they would give in the ſame to Mr. *James Young* of *Killicanty* Merchant in *Edinburgh*. *Ibid.*

Liſts of Probationers and Students of Divinity were brought in and read, and the Liſt of Probationers or-dered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

Pro-

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Proteſtation was admitted at the Inſtance of the Synod of of *Perth* and Presbytery of *Dumblain*, againſt Mr. *Hugh Walker* late Miniſter at *Leckrop*, for not inſiſting in his Appeal from the Sentence of the ſaid Synod, depoſing him from the Office of the Miniſtry. *Ibid.*

A Committee was appointed for reviſing the Minutes of this Aſſembly, and giving Orders for printing ſuch of the Acts thereof as are to be ſtanding Rules, or of publick Uſe. *Ibid.*

The Minutes of this Day's *Sederunt* were read, all the Minutes of preceeding *Sederunts* having been read at the reſpective Diets ſubſequent to each of them. *Ibid.*

The Moderator made a Speech to the Aſſembly, and to His Majeſty's Commiſſioner. *Ibid.*

The Lord Commiſſioner made a Speech, and the Aſſembly is concluded. *Ibid.*

FINIS.